AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A container for receiving plates having a sensitive surface, said container comprising:

a container part having a cavity enclosed by four walls and a bottom;

a removable cover for closing the container part;

guide grooves located on two opposing ones of said walls for guiding plates received therein;

a flexible tongue configured integrally with the cover for securing plates received within the container against displacement;

wherein said flexible tongue is configured as a free standing element being connected to said cover only at one end and protruding from said cover defining a free space between said tongue and said cover, said flexible tongue being ~~is~~ biased into the direction of said bottom for exerting a pressure against a front surface of plates received within the container for securing the ~~said~~ plates against displacements when said cover is closed.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The container of claim 1, wherein said container comprises a homopolymeric plastic material.

4. (original) The container of claim 1, wherein said container consists of a homopolymeric polypropylene.

5. (original) The container of claim 1, wherein said cover is linked with said container part by a film hinge.

6. (original) The container of claim 1, wherein said cover is configured lockable with said container part.

7. (original) The container of claim 6, wherein said cover further comprises a circumferentially closed wall section extending from a surface of said cover toward said container part, said closed wall section comprising a groove extending circumferentially about said closed wall section, a mating bulb being provided on said walls of said container part for locking said cover with said container part when said container part is closed by said cover.

8. (original) The container of claim 1, wherein a supporting ridge is located at the inner surface of the bottom for supporting plates received within the container.

9. (currently amended) A container for receiving plates having a sensitive surface, said container comprising:

a container part having a cavity enclosed by four walls and a bottom;

a removable cover for closing the container part;

guide grooves located on two opposing ones of said walls for guiding plates received therein;

a flexible tongue configured integrally with said bottom for securing plates received within the container against displacement;

wherein said flexible tongue is configured as a free standing element being connected to said bottom only at one end and protruding from said bottom defining a free space between said tongue and said bottom, said flexible tongue being ~~is~~ biased into the direction of said cover for exerting a pressure against a front surface of plates received within the container for securing the ~~said~~ plates against displacements when said cover is closed.

10. (cancelled)

11. (original) The container of claim 9, wherein said container comprises of a homopolymeric plastic material.

12. (original) The container of claim 9, wherein said container consists of a homopolymeric polypropylene.

13. (original) The container of claim 9, wherein said cover is linked with said container part by a film hinge.

14. (original) The container of claim 9, wherein said cover is configured lockable with said container part.

15. (original) The container of claim 14, wherein said cover further comprises a circumferentially closed wall section extending from a surface of said cover toward said container part, said closed wall section comprising a groove extending circumferentially about said closed wall section, a mating bulb being provided on said walls of said container part for locking said cover with said container part when said container part is closed by said cover.

16. (currently amended) A container for receiving plates having a sensitive surface, said container comprising:

a container part having a cavity enclosed by four walls and a bottom;

a removable cover for closing the container part;

guide grooves located on two opposing ones of said walls for guiding plates received therein;

a flexible element configured integrally with said cover for securing plates received within the container against displacement;

wherein said flexible element <u>is configured as a free standing element being connected to said cover only at one end and protruding from said cover defining a free space between said flexible element and said cover, said flexible element being</u> ~~is~~

biased into the direction of said bottom for exerting a pressure against a front surface of plates received within the container for securing the ~~said~~ plates against displacements when said cover is closed.

17. (cancelled)

18. (original) The container of claim 16, wherein said container comprises of a homopolymeric plastic material.

19. (original) The container of claim 16, wherein said container consists of a homopolymeric polypropylene.

20. (original) The container of claim 16, wherein said cover is linked with said container part by a film hinge.

21. (original) The container of claim 16, wherein said cover is configured lockable with said container part.

22. (original) The container of claim 21, wherein said cover further comprises a circumferentially closed wall section extending from a surface of said cover toward said container part, said closed wall section comprising a groove extending circumferentially about said closed wall section, a mating bulb being provided on said walls of said container part for locking said cover with said container part when said container part is closed by said cover.

23. (currently amended) A container for receiving plates having a sensitive surface, said container comprising:

a container part having a cavity enclosed by four walls and a bottom;

a removable cover for closing the container part;

guide grooves located on two opposing ones of said walls for guiding plates received therein;

a flexible element configured integrally with the bottom for securing plates received within the container against displacement;

wherein said flexible element is configured as a free standing element being connected to said bottom only at one end and protruding from said bottom defining a free space between said tongue and said bottom, said flexible element being ~~is~~ biased into the direction of said cover for exerting a pressure against a front surface of plates received within the container for securing the ~~said~~ plates against displacements when said cover is closed.